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Approved For Release 2004/05/13 : CIA-RDP91M00696R000700020022-4
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

10 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable James R. Schlesinger
The Secretary of Defense

Jim:

Attached is the 8 September memorandum from Kissinger (signed by Scowcroft) to the DCI which we discussed on 9 September. I have ascertained (from Wheaton Byers) that its genesis did indeed lie with John Foster who, as you know, believes that the NIEs -- including 11-3/8-74 -- have persistently underestimated Soviet first strike capabilities. As we have discussed and as I believe you agree, Foster is wrong because he persists in misinterpreting what the judgment of that NIE actually is.

Foster had prepared a memorandum for the President of which the DCI was to receive a copy. We had an opportunity to comment on his draft, though our comments do not seem to have had much effect. According to Byers, when Henry learned of Foster's views he said they had to be taken up with the President "right away." To my mind the net result has been a very odd pair of bedfellows: Henry finds some of the judgments of the present Estimates unpalatable for one reason; Foster finds them unpalatable for a quite different reason. (The former does not like anything that could serve as the basis for any criticism of his SALT agreement; the latter believes the Russians are coming and in fact are almost here.)

No one claims the present estimative process is perfect, least of all those of us responsible for managing it. We

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welcome new ideas and are always willing to try new approaches. The procedure outlined in the attached paper, if adopted, would radically change the whole process and move it from the Intelligence Community to the NSC Staff, thus ensuring its politicization and making detached objectivity almost impossible. This is a very grave step and not one to be taken lightly -- certainly not on any short-fused time deadline without any opportunity for prior discussion. The attached document, as I told you, came as a bolt out of the blue with a request for a response within 48 hours. Bill Colby had no inkling that it was coming, nor did I. After you have had a chance to read it, would you please call me on the secure phone so that we may discuss it further.

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[REDACTED]
George A. Carver, Jr. *(initials)*
Deputy for National Intelligence Officers

Attachment

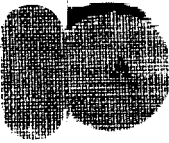
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